

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
HIDEKI YOSHIOKA ET AL : EXAMINER:
SERIAL NO: NEW DIVISIONAL APPLICATION : GROUP:
FILED: HEREWITH :
FOR: ULTRASONIC PICTURE PROCESSING :
METHOD AND PICTURE PROCESSING
APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 1-39.

Please add new Claims 40-58 as follows:

40. (New) A heart function analysis apparatus comprising:

an extraction section configured to extract a cardiac wall contour from each of a plurality of heart images generated in a time-series;

a division section configured to divide the cardiac wall contour of each of the heart images into a plurality of cardiac wall contour divisions, using a point having a structural feature of the heart as a reference; and